

Message Text

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FOR ICS/D WOLCOTT; IEU LEDERER

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: ELECTION SEMINAR

REF: THE HAGUE 2289

1. SUMMARY: POST ELECTION SEMINAR FOR EDITORS AND JOURNALIST MAY 6-7 VERY SUCCESSFUL. 25 LEADING DUTCH FOREIGN EDITORS AND TELEVISION PRODUCERS SPENT DAY AND HALF DISCUSSING US ELECTIONS WITH VOLSPAKERS JOHN GILLIGAN; EDMOND COSTANTINI AND JAY BLUMLER (BOTH FROM RRU); MERTON BERNSTEIN AND GALEN IRWIN (RECRUITED IN THE NETHERLANDS). SEMINAR FOCUSED ON SYSTEM OF CHOOSING A PRESIDENT AND POLITICAL FACTOS WORKING 1976. ALL SPEAKERS VERY GOOD. GILLIGAN OUTSTANDING. HIGH POIT OF PROGRAM. SUPPORT MATERIALS FROM ICS, IPS AND IMV VALUABLE ADDITION TO PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. 25 TOP FOREIGN EDITORS AND TELEVISION PRODUCERS/COMMENTATORS
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IN NETHERLANDS SPENT DAY AND HALF AT HOLIDAY INN LEIDEN WITH FIVE

FIRST CLASS US LECTURERS AT POST SPONSORED ELECTION SEMINAR. PARTICIPANTS REPRESENTED ALL MAJOR NATIONAL DAILIES, TWO MAJOR PRESS SERVICES, LEADING OPINION WEEKLIES AND TOP TELEVISION ORGANIZATIONS. SPEAKERS WERE JOHN GILLIGAN, FORMER GOVERNOR OF OHIO, EDMOND COSTANTINI, CHAIRMAN DEPT POL SCI UNIV CAL DAVIS; JAY BLUMLER, DIRECTOR TELEVISION RESEARCH CENTER, LEEDS; MERTON BERNSTEIN, PROF OF LAW, WASHINGTON U., ST. LOUIS; GALEN IRWIN, UNIVERSITY OF LEIDEN.

3. PROGRAM OPENED WITH SCREENING OF VIDEOTAPES AS PARTICIPANTS ARRIVED; AFTER INTRODUCTIONS WATCHED FIRST IMV ELECTION SPECIAL WITH SCAMMON AND CO. GILLIGAN WAS FIRST SPEAKER WITH ELECTION STIREP FOLLOWED BY LONG DISCUSSION WHICH CONTINUED THROUGH DINNER. AFTER DINNER, COSTANTINI DELIVERED KNOWLEDGEABLE PRESENTATION CHANGES IN ELECTION RULES AND PARTY REFORM. DISCUSSION CONTINUED WELL INTO EVENING FOLLOWING FORMAL ADJOURNMENT OF SEMINAR.

4. SECOND DAY SEMINAR FEATURED IRWIN ON US VOTING BEHAVIOR, SPICED WITH COMPARISONS TO DUTCH (HIS SPECIALTY); BLUMLER ON MEDIA AND ELECTIONS, WHICH STARTED WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION AMONG ALL SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS; AND BENSTEIN ON ISSUES AND CAMPAIGN STRATEGY AND ORGANIZATION. AFTER LUNCH, GILLIGAN WRAPPED UP WITH VERY THOUGHTFUL PRESENTATION, FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION.

5. PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED COPIES OF ALL IPS ELECTION BACKGROUNDRUNS, COLLECTED ARTICLES AND IPS ELECTION HANDBOOK. BIBLIOGRAPHY PREPARED BY IRWIN AND USIS LIBRARIAN DISTRIBUTED AND A COLLECTION OF BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS DISPLAYED. ALL SUPPORT MATERIALS WELL RECEIVED.

6. COMMENT: SEMINAR WAS A SUCCESS BECAUSE IT GAVE POST A CHANCE TO MEET WITH IMPORTANT MEMBERS PRIMARY AUDIENCE AND SHOW THAT WE COULD PROVIDE THEM WITH SOMETHING THEY NEEDED. SEMINAR WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD WITH FOUR ACADEMIC SPEAKERS ONLY, BUT GILLIGAN MADE IT SPECIAL. WOULD RECOMMEND HIM TO ANY POST AND WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HIM ACK. HIS AND OTHER SPEAKERS CANDOR WAS IMPORTANT PART OF PROGRAM SUCCESS. CANDOR ABOUT US POLITICS CAUGHT SOME PARTICIPANTS OFF GUARD IN SATISFYING WAY FOR US AND FOR THEM. MANY PARTICIPANTS SKEPTICAL THIS YEARS UNCLASSIFIED

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ELECTION BECAUSE FORD NEWNESS TO NATIONAL POLITICS, REAGAN'S EXTREME POSITIONS AND CARTER'S UNKNOWN QUANTITIES. DOUBTS WERE AIRED, DISCUSSED AND IF NOT ELIMINATED PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE.

7. ACTION: POST WISHES TO FOLLOW UP BY SENDING EACH PARTICIPANT ARTICLE REQUESTED IN REFTEL FOR WHICH COPYRIGHT CLEARANCE NOT YET RECEIVED. SEND CLEARANCE SOONEST.

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